

## SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

July 2015

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### **Soil and Water Districts Commission Tours Southeast Missouri in June**

The Soil and Water Districts Commission toured several farming operations, agribusiness and educational facilities in conjunction with the commission's June 17 meeting in Portageville in southeast Missouri.

The commission visited the New Madrid Port Authority and saw rice being processed at a Riceland Foods mill located next to the Mississippi River. Commissioners visited the A.C. Riley Cotton Co., a working cotton gin. The final stop was at Commissioner Tom Bradley's farm to see high-technology cotton harvesting machines, and how they use a poly bag tubing system to furrow irrigate corn.

The commission held its meeting at the Fisher-Delta Research Center, which is operated by the University of Missouri College of Agriculture,



**Students sort seeds at the Fisher-Delta Research Center.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler



**Commissioner Tom Bradley describes how the high-tech cotton harvester at his farm is operated by remote control during the commission tour.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler



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Food and Natural Resources. Trent Haggard, the director of the Center, provided a welcome and after the meeting the commission toured the center to see research being done related to the soils and topography of southeast Missouri. The center studies how these factors affect cotton and rice production and irrigation. The center has many projects underway including drought studies, improving soybean varieties, cotton and corn variety testing, irrigation systems, and soil and plant testing and analysis, among others.

At the meeting, the commission reviewed and approved a policy for cover crops. The policy became effective July 1, 2015. The policy is available online at [dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/service/docs/n340-cover-crop.pdf](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/service/docs/n340-cover-crop.pdf)

The commission also approved increasing the cooperators lifetime maximum on Beef Waste Management and Poultry Waste Management practices to \$50,000 and clarified other parts of the policy.

The commission meeting is available to view on the Web at [dnr.mo.gov/videos/archive-meetings.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/videos/archive-meetings.htm).



**The Riceland Foods mill tour guide points out the river access along the Mississippi River near the mill.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler



**Commissioner Tom Bradley describes how the corn field is irrigated using a poly bag tubing system.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler



**Commissioner Gary Vandiver examines rice as it is being processed at the Riceland Foods mill.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler



**Soil and Water Conservation Program director Colleen Meredith shows the size of a cotton bale.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler





**Poly bag tubing system for furrow irrigation.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler



**The commission and guests tour the A.C. Riley Cotton Company in New Madrid.**

DNR photo by Van Beydler

### **Cover Crop Soil Testing Procedures**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is working in conjunction with the University of Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC) on instructions for doing soil samples for the cover crop practice. This information will be available on the SHAC website at [cafnr.missouri.edu/soil-health/](http://cafnr.missouri.edu/soil-health/).

Also available is a Cover Crop Soil Health Information sheet that will need to be completed and submitted to SHAC with the sample(s). The sheet gathers information about the landowners cropping and tillage history to assist SHAC with the analysis. Labeling information is also available, as well as information about how to take the samples with bulk density rings that are available at soil and water conservation district offices.

### **Soil and Water Districts Commission to Meet Aug. 19 at the Missouri State Fair**

The next Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting will be held on Aug. 19 at the Missouri State Fair. The time of the meeting will be posted on the commission's Web page at [dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/meetings.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/meetings.htm).

The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission meets approximately six to nine times a year, mainly in Jefferson City. Periodically, meetings are held in various parts of the state in conjunction with tours or other meetings.

During these meetings, the commission establishes policy relating to soil and water conservation issues that impact the owners of privately held agricultural land. The commission also hears appeals from soil and water conservation districts and landowners concerning these policies. All meetings are open to the public unless the commission goes into closed session in accordance with state law governing open meetings (RSMo 610).

### **Missouri Department of Natural Resources Creates Internal Flood Status Coordination Team**

Members from various programs within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are meeting regularly to hear updates about how flooding is affecting public safety, agriculture, homes, businesses, state parks and recreation in the state. Reports affecting soil and water, geology, dam safety, state parks and emergency response are being coordinated at the department's headquarters in Jefferson City. The flood status coordination team is also hearing information from the Water Resources Center and Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla, and the department's five regional office. The department's response in areas affected by the flooding across the state.

### **Missouri Department of Natural Resources Uses Twitter to Deliver Information**

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